

Amendment to the Specification

On Page 3, lines 10-16, please substitute with the following paragraph.

Another aspect of the invention is a noble metal catalyst comprising a particulate carbon support and particulate platinum having a valency less than (IV). The catalyst has a total agglomerate volume less than about ~~2.4 x 10¹¹ nm³/nm²~~ ~~2.4 x 10¹¹~~ nm³/nm². In preferred embodiments, the particulate carbon support is chemically treated. The treatment preferably includes contacting said carbon with an agent selected from the group consisting of oxygen gas, hydrogen peroxide, organic peroxides, and ozone.